WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An extended-release antibiotic composition comprising at least one antibiotic, and greater than 50 weight percent, based on the total weight of the composition, of a polymer component, wherein said polymer component comprises at least one pharmaceutically acceptable hydrophilic polymer, and said polymer component has a viscosity of less than about 50 cps.

2. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, methyl cellulose, carboxymethylethyl cellulose, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, ethylcarboxyethyl cellulose, polyvinylalcohol, sodium alginate, polyvinylpyrrolidone, vinyl acetate/crotonic acid copolymers, methacrylic acid copolymers, methyl methacrylic ester copolymers, maleic anhydride/methyl vinyl ether copolymers, poly(ethylene oxide), and combinations thereof.

3. The composition according to Claim 2, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose and poly(ethylene oxide).

4. The composition according to Claim 3, wherein the polymer is hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose.

5. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the antibiotic is selected from the group consisting of erythromycin, azithromycin, clarithromycin, fluoroquinolones, cephalosporins, tetracyclic antibiotics and combinations thereof, including salts and derivatives thereof.

6. The composition according to Claim 5, wherein the antibiotic is clarithromycin.

7. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the antibiotic is present in an amount of from about 1 wt.% to about 50 wt.%, based on the total weight of the composition.

8. The composition according to Claim 7, wherein the antibiotic is present in an amount of from about 10 wt.% to about 45 wt.%.

9. The composition according to Claim 8, wherein the antibiotic is present in an amount of from about 30 wt.% to about 43 wt.%.

10. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the polymer is present in an amount of from about 51 wt.% to about 75 wt.%, based on the total weight of the composition.

11. The composition according to Claim 10, wherein the polymer is present in an amount of from about 53 wt.% to about 70 wt.%.

12. The composition according to Claim 11, wherein the polymer is present in an amount of from about 55 wt.% to about 60 wt.%.

13. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the polymer has a viscosity of about 1 cps to about 30 cps.

14. The composition according to Claim 13, wherein the polymer has a viscosity of about 5 cps to about 20 cps.

15. A process for preparing an extended-release antibiotic composition, said process comprising blending at least one antibiotic, a polymer component, and optionally one or more excipients to form a composition, wherein the polymer component is present in an amount of greater than 50 weight percent, based on the total weight of the composition, wherein said polymer component comprises at least one pharmaceutically acceptable hydrophilic polymer, and said polymer component has a viscosity of less than about 50 cps.

16. The method according to Claim 15, wherein the antibiotic is clarithromycin.

17. The method according to Claim 15, wherein the excipient is selected from the group consisting of a binder, diluent, anti-caking agent, amino acid, filler, solubilizer, disintegrant, lubricant, emulsifier, flavorant, solvent, stabilizer, anti-oxidant, anti-adherent, preservative, electrolyte, glidant, coating and combinations thereof.

18. The composition according to Claim 1, which is in a form selected from the group consisting of a capsule, caplet, powder and tablet.

19. The composition according to Claim 18, which is in the form of a tablet.

20. A method of using an extended-release antibiotic composition comprising at least one antibiotic, and greater than 50 weight percent, based on the total weight of the

composition, of a polymer component, wherein said polymer component comprises at least one pharmaceutically acceptable hydrophilic polymer, and said polymer component has a viscosity of less than about 50 cps, wherein said method comprises administering the composition in an effective amount for the treatment of bacterial infection in a patient in need of such treatment.